

HOW TO MAKE STUDENTS HAVE FUN IN LEARNING ENGLISH

Why do we need to make school learning fun?

- School curriculum or syllabus is preplanned. It does not consider student needs
- Our classroom is so structured that school learning is dull, pointless, and painful even for our bright students (see Holdaway, 1991)



2. How to make students fun in learning English?

Teaching must be oriented toward students (we need to know our student characteristics)

Students learn best when learning is kept whole, meaningful, interesting, and functional (see Fisher, 1991)



Teaching should be conducted by:

- making variation;
- avoiding embarrassment of students;
- affirming each students talents and strengths;
- allowing students errors to be accepted;
- deemphasizing competition between classmates; and
- Encouraging small group activity where risks can be taken easily by students.



3. Samples of suggested activities

3.1 For SMP Students

- * Theme/topic: Personal Identity/Introducing people
- * Class: VII, Smt 1
- * Time allotment: 45-90 minutes
- * Source : Contextual English, Chapter 2
- * Objectives: -Students practice expressions used for introducing people
-Students practice the simple present tense in affirmative and interrogative with to be
- * Skill focus : Integrated



Procedure:

1. Ask students to work in pairs
2. Ask two students to come to the class and ask them to read the dialogue (introducing people) aloud

e.g: Ani: Hello, I'm Ani. I'm from Bandung

What's your name?

Indri: Hi. Ani. I'm Indri. I'm from Yogyakarta
etc.



3. Ask other students (working in pairs) to listen to the dialogue, ask them to fill out the given form while they are listening

4. Ask them to listen again to the dialogue, then complete it

Name	Place of origin	Address
1.		
2.		
3.		



Ani: Hello, I'm I'm from... What's your...

Indri: Hi. I'm from...

Ani : Where do you..., etc

4. Ask students to work in a group of 4 or 5. Ask each of them to interview his/her friends in the group. Use the questions below as guide: - Where are you from?; - Where do you live?; How old are you?;-What's your hobby?



5. After doing the interview, ask them to write one of his/her friend's personal data. Use the following :

Her/his name is.... She/he comes

She/he lives.... She/he is... Her/his hobby is...



2.2 For SMA/MA Students

- *Text type : Review
- *Topic : Self-chosen, e.g: Successful artists and singers
- *Class : XII (SMA/MA class III)
- *Grouping : Groups of 4 or 6
- *Time allotment: 90 minutes
- *Skill focus : reading and writing
- *Source : Contextual learning; Unit 10



- Objectives: -Students can identify textual features of review text
-Students can identify the information contained in the text

Procedure:

1. Ask students to work in groups of 8-10
2. Ask them to select newspaper item (e.g from The Jakarta Post) related to “Music and Screen Sections” on Sunday publication



3. Divide the class into 5 groups (Group A – E)
4. Ask the groups to read different features on music and film (label the features A,B,C,D and E). Ask them to discuss and identify the following points:

For Film:

Title of the Film	The film stars	The director	Synopsis



For Music

Title of the Songs	About the Songs	About the Singers



6. Regroup them so that each new group consists of members from group A, B, C, D and E.

Ask them to discuss the film and the stars; songs and the singers. Then, decide who is the biggest success. Ask them to give reasons for this activity.

7. Additional activity:

- Ask each member of the groups to act out as singer or film star and journalist.



- **Ask students who act out as journalist to interview their friends whose role as singer or film star. Use the following questions as guides:**
 - **When did you first start wanting to do what you are doing now?**
 - **Did you always want to do it? (Was there another career that tempted you?)**
 - **When did you begin your career?**
 - **How did you make a start in your career?**
 - **What difficulties did you have at the beginning?**
- 8. Ask them to take turn (as journalist, singer or film star).**
- 9. At the end of the activity, ask them to write what they get from the interview (Make a feature for newspaper or bulletin board in the school)**

